

The Confederate.

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All letters on business of the Office, to be directed to A. M. GORMAN & Co.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1864.

Mr. Holden's Denial.

Gov. Vance charged at Smithfield, that Mr. Holden had, last November, avowed his object in having a State Convention, to be to the State out of the Confederacy.

Mr. Holden, seeing the gravity of the charge, denied it emphatically. Thereupon, Mr. W. W. Hampton, of Wilkes, certifies as follows:

"I recollect on one occasion during the session of the Legislature last November, in the Commons Hall, near the fire place, to the left of the Speaker's desk, of hearing W. W. Holden say, that the Legislature should call a Convention of the State immediately, and take the State out of the Confederacy; and mark my prediction, in less than six months from this time you will see that I am right."

Mr. Horton, the member from Watauga, certifies:

"I happened to be near, and overheard something that was said about the Confederate Government, but what particular subject was spoken of I did not understand; but I heard Mr. Holden say—'this Legislature ought to call a Convention and take the State out of the concern. Mark my prediction, you will all see before six months from this time that I am right.'

Mr. Holden feels the gravity and importance of this matter, for it calls in question his veracity and his loyalty. It fixes one way or the other, his regard for truth, and his love of country; and he knows the people of North Carolina well enough to feel, that conservatives, as many of them may be "of the straitest sect," they are not prepared to make a man Governor, whose veracity is impeached, or whose loyalty is fairly questioned. Hence, he repeats the denial, and seeks to break the force of the evidence thus:

"HARD RUN—MORE HUMBUGGERY." This is the title to his repeated denial, as contained in the *Standard* of June 3rd, in which he says: "Mr. Horton, who is an intelligent gentleman, admits that he overheard something that was said about the Confederate Government, but what particular subject was spoken of he did not understand—thus leaving the inference, if such conversation took place, that much more was said than that repeated in a parrot-like manner by Mr. Hampton."

Now Mr. Horton leaves no such impression; for he closes his statement with the declaration—but I heard Mr. Holden say, "this legislature ought to call a Convention and take the State out of the concern. Mark my prediction, you will all see before six months from this time that I am right."

If Mr. Horton is "INTELLIGENT," he understands this language; and if he is truthful, he remembers and correctly states it:

Of Mr. Hampton, Mr. Holden says:

"But Mr. Hampton who is a stupid, un-informed person, and incapable of comprehending either a long sentence or a contingency, or even a statement in an argument, would have the public believe that we rushed into his presence, near the fire-place, and made the declaration attributed to us."

And in this manner he disposes of Mr. Hampton. Now we do not know Mr. Hampton very well; but if Mr. Holden's opinion of him be correct, then the people of Wilkes have drawn very poorly on their resources for a representative; and Mr. Holden pays a poor compliment to his friends, his conservative friends in Wilkes, when he thus exposes to the world the folly of their selection.

But this is not Mr. Holden's opinion of Mr. Hampton. This is the first time he ever spoke of him in this way; and now, it is one of his "honest arts" of abusing men "for party purposes." Last summer, peace meetings, got up under Mr. Holden's auspices, were held throughout the State. One of them was held in the town of Wilkesboro, in the county of Wilkes. Mr. Holden thus heralds it to the world:

"The meeting held at Wilkesborough on the 7th, was largely attended. W. W. Hampton presided. * * * The resolutions take strong grounds for peace on a just and proper basis. * * * It will not do to say that W. W. Hampton, Dr. Calhoun, Calvin J. Cowles, Rev. S. P. Smith, with the balance of the committee and the people present, are not true to the State. They are as true men as the State contains."—*Raleigh Standard*, Aug. 19, 1863.

At that time, Mr. Holden thought better of Mr. Hampton. He thought him competent to preside over a large meeting of intelligent people, and so did the people of Wilkes. He thought him competent to appoint a good committee—to understand the resolutions—to put the questions, and he pronounced him before the State, to be "as true a man as the State contains." Now, he stigmatizes him as a "stupid, un-informed person"—of "leaden memory," whose recital of a conversation "is ridiculously false on its face."

Mr. Hampton may console himself in the reflection that he is better off now than before; for Mr. Holden's censure is preferable to his praise.

But this matter should be lifted to the bottom. We have heard of many other gentlemen, who will verify the statement of Messrs. Hampton and Horton. There are men in Chatham, who heard similar propositions from Mr. Holden; men in Guilford; men in Johnston; and there are such men in Raleigh. And we have heard of one gentleman, a minister of the gospel, a public man whose word Mr. Holden could not call in question. After this cool impudence and impertinence in an old broken down party hook, who will not get twenty thousand votes in the State, and who has nobody in the State but himself and "John, the Rascal" (*per nobis, utrum*) to advocate his election, we can afford to postpone a notion of his political ascendancy upon the election of the Confederacy, while we enjoy a laugh over his folly and impudence.

Such a plot has no claim on any man's confidence. To aid in its concealment is to connive at the criminal object. Let this matter be made clear, and then there is more matter to come.

The News and the Situation.

It has doubtless occurred to the reader as quite remarkable, that Grant, notwithstanding his tremendous losses, should persist in attacking that particular part of our line which commands the two bridge sites known as McLeMae and Grape Vine bridges—between New bridge and the Railroad bridge. Hoke and Breckinridge have repulsed with fearful slaughter every effort that he has made, and are still holding this important ridge. But, as the Richmond papers say, the reason is imperative—Grant must have these bridges for crossing the Chickahominy and making his way to the James river for supplies. Unless he continues his flank movement, or if he falls back to the White House, he confesses defeat; hence his persistent effort at Turkey Ridge, notwithstanding the wholesale slaughter that has attended his attacks.

It was across these bridges that McClellan reinforced Gen. Keyes at the battle of Seven Pines, and again sent reinforcements to Fitz John Porter at the battle of Gaines' Mill.

Across these bridges McClellan withdrew his defeated army from Gaines' Mill when he began his "change of base" to Harrison's Landing. These bridges are now as necessary to Grant as they were to McClellan. "Without their undisturbed use he can neither move on Richmond or continue his flank movement which keeps up appearances and deceives his credulous people at home. Without these bridges he must move on roads that lead away from Richmond, and find his base on the Pamunkey, at the White House, or on the Jaxes, below the mouth of the Chickahominy. The importance of these bridges explains Grant's persistent and murderous efforts for Turkey Ridge. How long he will continue to have his army cut up as it has been in these late assaults, it is not possible for us to say. But yesterday, June 7, the Republican Convention met in Baltimore. If Lincoln be nominated, the object of the campaign will have been accomplished, and the murder and maiming of sixty thousand men have not been in vain. Grant will then be free to act rationally, and may take steps to preserve the remnant of his army by abandoning the "On to Richmond," via all or any road from north or east of the city. The Fredericksburg line, upon which it was his "propose to fight it out if it takes all the summer," was abandoned for McClellan's line, from the White House. This last having been attended with no better success, "Up Spout" Grant will retire.

Brass and Impudence.

Notorious as Mr. Holden, editor of the *Standard* and self-made candidate for Governor, has heretofore been for cool impudence, brazen effrontery, and arrant demagoguism, he has even excelled himself in his *Standard* of yesterday. It is amusing to see how flippantly he disposes of Gov. Vance's pretensions for re-election, and of all others who are not in favor of "Gov. Vance's present opponent," meaning himself.

First, Mr. Holden makes a dash at the Fayetteville *Daily Carolinian*, which when it first appeared a few weeks ago, he hailed as another *independent* journal that would defend the right, and therefore go for him for Governor. But the *Carolinian* has come out for Gov. Vance, and now Mr. Holden says its editor "is a detail to retail falsehood."

Then he pitches into Gov. Vance, for not pressing the ten regiment bill upon the Legislature some eighteen months ago, and thereby have secured the "Reserved forces," those between 17 and 18, and 45 and 50 years of age, as State troops for State service. These "Reserves," according to Mr. Holden, ought to have been put in service eighteen months ago, instead of being allowed to remain at home, to take care of their families, and raise supplies for the country, where the men between 45 and 50 still are, and where the "boys" would also be, but for the exemption of ten thousand able-bodied men in North Carolina which Mr. Holden and his followers have been so clamorous to keep out. These are the facts in the case; and the necessity for calling for these "old men and boys," is owing entirely to the large number that have been exempted by the State Legislature, who are able and ought to be in the army. Put in all who are of the conscript age—the justices of the peace, constables, mayors, commissioners, &c., &c., who are under 45, and who Mr. Holden has insisted should be kept out, and "the boys" can return home, and "the old men" remain where they are, tending their crops and remaining with their families. Will Mr. Holden pledge himself for this reform, in order to remove the burden from the old men and boys?

Mr. Holden next turns his attention to Granville county; gives Col. Amis a slap in the face, and after consigning "James M. Bullock, Esq., to the tombs of the Capulets, advised all the "true Conservatives of the county" to go for entire unity, in order that "those who support Gov. Vance's present opponent, (that is I, myself, Wm. W. Holden) may carry the county; and then says "Gov. Vance's friends have no hope of electing him," and "if he," Gov. Vance, "had any regard for his few friends in the Conservative party, or for the party itself, he would at once retire from the contest."

After this cool impudence and impertinence in an old broken down party hook, who will not get twenty thousand votes in the State, and who has nobody in the State but himself and "John, the Rascal" (*per nobis, utrum*) to advocate his election, we can afford to postpone a notion of his political ascendancy upon the election of the Confederacy, while we enjoy a laugh over his folly and impudence.

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All these men owe it to the cause of truth and country, to make this matter clear.

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As an evidence that the Confederate authorities sympathize with the poor of the country in their present distress, we state the fact that in Lancaster District, S. C., the tithe corn is sold to indigent families at \$1 per bushel, while the Government supplies itself by paying \$8 per bushel. We learn this from the Lancaster *Advertiser*, and we are glad to find that the poor of the South are not left to starve.

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